



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

No. 30

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARDY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 25, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CRESENT HARDY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CARBON CAPTURE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, this morning I introduced the Carbon Capture Act, which makes simple changes to the existing section 45Q tax credit that further incentivizes carbon capture and sequestration projects.

CCS technology will help reduce carbon emissions while simultaneously creating jobs, bolstering domestic oil production, and providing regulatory relief for our coal industry. Yes. You heard that right.

The benefits of CCS are bringing folks who do not traditionally work together to the same table for the betterment of our Nation's energy security.

Often people believe they are forced to choose between supporting economic development or environmental stewardship. However, this bill is evidence that that is a false choice. Above all, CCS serves as a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit and gumption found throughout this great country.

In Texas District 11, I have seen this innovative spirit daily. These projects will play an important role in west Texas' and our Nation's future energy portfolio.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in the weeks ahead, we will be dealing with the budget resolution and we will be dealing with defense authorization and appropriations.

Already we have seen the administration unveil a budget that is not only unrealistic, but actually could be dangerous.

It keeps spending for all the nuclear modernization on track over \$3 billion, and it includes funding for a long-range, standoff replacement cruise missile, \$2.2 billion in the future year defense program, ultimately costing \$20- to \$30 billion, if not more, this to replace a cruise missile that the father of this device, former Secretary of Defense William Perry, feels is no longer relevant and has argued against.

There are billions of dollars for the controversial modernization of each leg of the nuclear triad—the land-based missiles, submarine-based missiles, and

the bombers—which have not been used in 65 years, have been unable to help us with the military challenges that we face now in the Middle East and are going to consume huge sums of money in this hopelessly redundant program.

It is dangerous because of the cuts in the nuclear nonproliferation program of over \$100 million. I mean, these are real threats to our security.

We are battling ISIS now. They have already obtained some low-grade nuclear material in a facility near Mosul. We have had a few nuclear weapons gone missing and other nuclear materials unaccounted for or stolen.

We need to have these proven programs to reduce the inventory, track it down, and take it out of circulation. We should be expanding them, not cutting them back. It continues an overall trillion-dollar spending that we are going to have on the nuclear programs over the course of the next 30 years.

Now, these are resources that are going to be at the expense of our conventional weapons. As I mentioned, the nuclear triad is far more than we need to deter anybody in the world right now and do not help us with the strategic challenges that we face today.

It is not going to prevent Russian adventurism in Ukraine or Crimea, but it will result in our having to cannibalize the Guard and Ready Reserve, the Army that will be paying the price for this.

These are conventional forces that have paid the price for the last two decades of activities and are going to be needed for both deterrence and, God forbid, actual activity in the future. We cannot do all of this within the current budget horizon.

The budget gimmicks ignore that. We have a little trust fund with the overseas contingency account that ignores budget realities that we are not going to be able to continue in perpetuity.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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